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(54) Title: ENHANCEMENT OF Th2-DEPENDENT AND INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to altering the levels of Th2 cytokine production, and in particular, biasing the cytokine expression profile towards Th2 cytokine production through mitogen-activated protein kinase/ERK kinase 1 (MEKK1), the screening of agents that increase Th2 cytokine production, and the treatment of Th1 associated autoimmune diseases *in vivo*. In one embodiment, the present invention relates to agents including but not limited to reducing the activity of MEKK1, leading to increased levels of Th2 cytokine production.

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